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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	AMAD-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	OIGO-01
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RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218185

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AORC, EAID, UNICEF, RW
SUBJECT: UNICEF IN RWANDA: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS
IN WASHINGTON

1. (LOU) SUMMARY. IN MEETINGS WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR
GLOBAL AFFAIRS TIM WIRTH AND IO A/S BENNET, UNICEF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GRANT EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR
U.S. INTERVENTIONS IN RWANDA AND STRESSED HOW IMPORTANT IT
IS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY TO STAY FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS.

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DESPITE HIS CONVICTION THAT THE UN DEPARTMENT OF
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (DHA) SHOULD GIVE THE LEAD UN
OPERATIONAL ROLE INSIDE RWANDA TO UNICEF BECAUSE OF ITS
LARGE AND ACTIVE PRESENCE ON THE GROUND, GRANT SUPPORTS
DHA DIRECTOR HANSEN'S EFFORTS TO COORDINATE AGENCY
ACTIVITIES. HE FEARS DHA LACKS THE CAPACITY TO FIELD
STAFF QUICKLY TO FILL THE INEVITABLE GAPS BETWEEN THE
INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, HOWEVER, AND
THAT GREAT DONOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE NEEDED. USAID HAS
AWARDED A USD ONE MILLION GRANT TO UNICEF TO BENEFIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 OCT 2015
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UNACCOMPANIED RWANDAN CHILDREN. NON-RWANDA ISSUES ARE
REPORTED SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES GRANT WAS IN TOWN
TO RECEIVE A MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON
AT A WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY AUGUST 8. IN CONJUNCTION WITH
HIS VISIT, HE MADE THE ROUNDS OF USG OFFICIALS AUGUST 8-9
AND DISCUSSED WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS TIM
WIRTH AND IO A/S DOUG BENNET UNICEF VIEWS ON THE U.S.
INTERVENTIONS IN RWANDA AND UNICEF'S ROLE IN THE DHA
MATRIX INSIDE RWANDA. (NON-RWANDA ISSUES ARE REPORTED
SEPTTEL). ON AUGUST 9, AT A HILL CEREMONY ATTENDED BY
CONGRESSMEN OBEY, LIVINGSTON, AND HALL, GRANT AND USAID
ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD SIGNED A USAID GRANT OF USD ONE
MILLION TO UNICEF TO BENEFIT UNACCOMPANIED RWANDAN
CHILDREN.

U.S. INTERVENTIONS

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3. (U) IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH WIRTH AND BENNET, GRANT
EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION TO THE USG AND TO THE U.S.
MILITARY FOR ITS INTERVENTIONS IN RWANDA AND EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT THE MILITARY WOULD STAY FOR 6-12 MONTHS FOR
HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES. UNICEF HAS PREPARED A NON-PAPER
FOR DISCUSSION WITH OFDA ON AREAS WHERE THE U.S. MILITARY
COULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR NON-FOOD HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS INSIDE RWANDA, INCLUDING WATER,
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND LOGISTICS. (FYI. UNDER THE
DIVISION OF UN AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES PROPOSED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (DHA) FOR INSIDE RWANDA
DESCRIBED REFTTEL, UNICEF WILL PROVIDE THE COORDINATION FOR
WATER AND SANITATION, HEALTH, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND
ORPHANS, NON-FOOD RELIEF ITEMS, AND EDUCATION AND
PSYCHO-SOCIAL NEEDS. IN GOMA, UNHCR HAS GIVEN
RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES TO MSF
BELGIUM AND HOLLAND. END FYI.)

4. (C) LIKE MANY OTHERS IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD WHO
WORKED ON CAMBODIAN RELIEF, GRANT FEARS THAT THE DEFEATED
RWANDAN ARMY (FAR) IN ZAIRE WILL TRY TO EMULATE POL POT'S
USE OF A PROTECTED BORDER TO CONDUCT RAIDS INTO RWANDA.
HIS GREATEST FEAR IS THAT A FAR ATTACK ON THE U.S.

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MILITARY WOULD PROMPT AN EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM RWANDA. ASKED WHAT IMPACT SUCH A WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE, GRANT ASSERTED THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES AND SET A PRECEDENT FOR HAITI (WHERE UNICEF IS ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN RELIEF EFFORTS).

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DHA COORDINATION

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5. (C) UNICEF HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN RELIEF

EFFORTS FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE AND CURRENTLY HAS 80 STAFF WORKING INSIDE RWANDA. GRANT CONFIRMED TO BENNET THAT HE HAD TRIED TO CONVINCE UN DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (DHA) DIRECTOR HANSEN TO DESIGNATE UNICEF AS THE LEAD OPERATIONAL AGENCY INSIDE RWANDA BECAUSE, UNLIKE DHA, UNICEF ALREADY HAS THE CAPACITY AND STAFF ON THE GROUND. HANSEN SEEMED TO FEEL "BURNED" BY THE UNHCR EXPERIENCE IN YUGOSLAVIA, HOWEVER, AND PREFERRED TO KEEP COORDINATION IN DHA, EVEN THOUGH DHA WILL NEED CONSIDERABLE PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES FROM DONORS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION. GRANT INSISTED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT HANSEN'S DECISION, BUT HE IS CONCERNED THAT WHEREAS UNICEF COULD QUICKLY FILL IN THE GAPS THAT WILL INEVITABLY OCCUR BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, DHA WILL BE UNABLE TO DO SO.

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